

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are now presented for examination. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, 16-20, 22-26 and 28-42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 21 and 27 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 43-56 have been added to assure Applicant of the full measure of protection to which he deems himself entitled. Claims 1, 15, 43, 46, 50 and 54-56 are the only independent claims.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 21 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,369,905 (Mitsubishi et al.) and U.S. Patent 6,453,127 (Wood et al.). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 as currently amended is directed to image processing apparatus having a server that can be accessed by external apparatuses and has a printing and/or a scanning function. In the image processing apparatus, an execution unit executes a print job or a scan job. An output control unit controls a display unit to display data and a storage unit stores client display data to cause a browser provided in a Web client to form an input column for a character message. A transmission unit transmits to an external apparatus that serves as a Web client the client display data stored in the storage unit for use in a client display screen in which a character message to be displayed is input. A reception unit receives message data based on a character message input by the Web client via the client display screen displayed on the basis of the client

display data transmitted by the transmission unit. The output control unit causes the display unit to display a message formed based on the message data received by the reception unit when the execution unit is in a standby state.

Independent Claim 15 as currently amended is directed to a control method for an image processing apparatus having a Web server that can be accessed by external apparatuses, a display unit and a storage unit and has a printing function and/or a scanning function. According to the method, a print job or a scan job is executed and a display unit is controlled to display data. Client display data stored in the storage unit to cause a browser provided in a Web client to form an input column for a character message and for use in a client display screen in which a character message is displayed is input is transmitted to an external apparatus that serves as the Web client. Message data based on a character message input by the Web client via the client display screen displayed on the basis of the transmitted client display data is received. The control of the display unit includes causing the display unit to display a message formed based on the received message data when the execution step is in a standby state.

In Applicant's view, Mitsuhashi et al. discloses an information processing apparatus that communicates information with an information device. The information processing apparatus accesses virtual device image data representing an image of the information device, obtains status information representing a status of the information device from the information device through a bidirectional interface, and controls a display to display a virtual device image

of the information device based on the accessed virtual device image data and the obtained status information. The virtual device image is a visual representation of the physical appearance of the information device in the status represented by the obtained status information.

In Applicant's opinion, Wood et al. discloses a copier or printer apparatus that provides printed copies in accordance with instructions provided by respective remote users of the apparatus. The apparatus has a marking engine for printing copies of information. A user interface supervisor controls interface between users and the marking engine. A network web server downloads software to a computer at a remote location to which a remote user has access to provide user interface software to establish a user operational interface for communicating requirements for a print job to the user interface supervisor for printing by the marking engine. In operation, the web server downloads applets for execution by the computer at the remote location so that downloaded applets provide a program for the computer at the remote location to process data for a printer interface display screen page for viewing by the remote user.

According to the invention defined in Claims 1 and 15 as currently amended, client display data stored in a storage unit of the image processing apparatus which display data causes a browser in a Web client to form an input column for a character message to be input is transmitted to an external apparatus. Message data based on a character message input by the Web client via the client display screen displayed on the basis of the transmitted client display data is received. An output control unit causes a display unit in the image processing apparatus to display a message formed based on formed based on the received message data when the

execution unit that executes a print job or a scan job is in a standby state. Advantageously, the client display data is transmitted to the Web client and there is no requirement for any application be installed for causing the printer to set a desired message into the Web client separately from the browser.

Mitsuhashi et al. may teach displaying a virtual panel image P1 on a host computer based on setting data set in a printer and the computer sending key setting status to the printer to update the setting status file on an operation panel of the printer so that the display status on the operation panel can be adjusted in response to key operation and mode display on the virtual panel image. Mitsuhashi et al., however, fails to consider the sending of messages to print users from a manager which is generally done by paper memos.

It is a feature of Claims 1 and 15 that client display data stored in storage unit of an image processing apparatus is transmitted to a Web client and used to cause a browser of a Web client to form an input column for a character message in a client display screen in which a character message for display is input; that message data based on the input character message by the Web client is received via the client display screen displayed on the basis of the transmitted client display data; and that the display unit of the image processing apparatus displays a message formed based on the message data received by the reception unit when the execution unit is in a standby state. In contrast, Mitsuhashi et al., only teach that a host computer obtains operation status of the operation panel of the printer so that the virtual panel image P1 is displayed at the host computer. Mitsuhashi et al., however, fails to teach or suggest transmitting client display data to a Web client so that a character message is formed on the client display screen and

message data based the character data received from the Web client by the image processing apparatus is displayed on the image processing apparatus display unit as in Claims 1 and 15. It is therefore not seen that Mitsuhashi et al. teaches or suggests the features of Claims 1 and 15.

Wood et al. discloses an arrangement which includes a work station 11, a copier/printer 15 and a Web server computer 30 (e.g., a Sun Microsystems work station). Wood et al. may teach the use of a web server application program 32 which interfaces with requests from a web browser 20. The Web server of Wood et al. is provided in the Sun Microsystems work station. If a client sets a message in Wood et al., the message will be displayed in a display unit of the Sun Microsystems work station not in a display unit of an image processing apparatus that has printing and scanning functions. In contrast to Wood et al., it is a feature of Claims 1 and 15 that a display unit in an image processing apparatus is controlled to display a message formed based on message data received by a reception unit from a Web client when the image processing apparatus execution unit is in a standby state. Accordingly, it is not seen that Wood et al. in any manner teaches or suggests the features of Claims 1 and 15.

With regard to the cited combination, Mitsuhashi et al. only teaches that a host computer obtains operation status of the operation panel of the printer so that the virtual panel image PI is displayed at the host computer. Wood et al. is limited to teaching displaying a message on a display unit of a Web server computer but not on the display unit of an image processing apparatus as in Claims 1 and 15. It is not seen that the addition of Wood et al.'s message display on a Web server computer rather than that of an image processing apparatus added to Mitsuhashi et al.'s host computer that obtains operation status of the operation panel of

the printer so that the virtual panel image PI is displayed at the host computer could possibly suggest the combination of features of Claims 1 and 15 of client display data stored in a storage unit of the image processing apparatus which display data causes a browser in a Web client to form an input column for a character message to be input being transmitted to an external apparatus, of message data based on a character message input by the Web client via the client display screen being displayed on the basis of the transmitted client display data is received and of output control causing a display unit in the image processing apparatus to display a message formed based on formed based on the received message data when the execution unit that executes a print job or a scan job is in a standby state. It is therefore believed that Claims 1 and 15 as currently amended are completely distinguished from Mitsuhashi et al. and Wood et al. and are allowable.

New independent Claim 43 is directed to image processing apparatus having a server that can be accessed by external apparatuses and having a printing and/or scanning function. In the apparatus, a providing unit provides display screen setting information that causes an external apparatus serving as a first information processing apparatus to set a message to be displayed in the image processing apparatus. A reception unit receives first message information based on a message input by the first information processing apparatus based on the provided display screen setting information. A reception unit receives the first message information based on the message input by the first information processing apparatus based on the provided display screen setting information. A display unit having plural display areas displays a message based on the first message information received by the reception unit in one of the plural display areas and a

transmission unit transmits to an external apparatus that serves as a second information processing apparatus second message information formed based on the first message information received by the reception unit. The provided display screen setting information has a display setting function to set whether the message displayed by the display unit is to be displayed in a display screen of the second information processing apparatus set based on the second message information transmitted by the transmission unit. The image processing apparatus has a control unit that determines whether the message is to be displayed on the display screen of the second information processing apparatus in accordance with the display setting function set via the setting screen displayed in the first information processing apparatus.

According to the invention of new Claims 43 and 54, display screen setting information is provided to a first information processing apparatus to set a message to be displayed in the image processing apparatus and the first message information based on the setting screen displayed in the first information processing apparatus based on the provided display screen setting information is received by the image processing apparatus. A message is displayed based on the received first message information. Second message information formed on the received information is transmitted to a second information processing apparatus. The provided display screen setting information has a display setting function to set whether the displayed message is to be displayed on the display screen of the second information processing apparatus and the image processing apparatus has control that determines whether the message is

to be displayed in the display screen of the second information processing apparatus according to the display setting function set via the setting screen displayed in the first information processing apparatus. Claim 54 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 43.

None of the cited references appears to teach or suggest any arrangement for an image processing apparatus in which displayed messages for a second information processing apparatus are controlled or set by display screen setting information from a first information processing apparatus sent via the image processing apparatus. Accordingly, it is believed that new claims 43 and 54 are completely distinguished from the cited references and are allowable.

New independent Claim 46 is directed to image processing apparatus having a server that can be accessed by plural external apparatuses including first and second information processing apparatuses and having printing and/or scanning functions. In the apparatus, a display unit displays information on the image processing apparatus including the status of the image processing apparatus. A providing unit provides display screen setting information to cause the first information processing apparatus to set a message to be displayed in the display unit. A reception unit receives first message information including a message input by the first information processing apparatus via a setting screen displayed in the first information processing apparatus based on the provided display screen setting information and display setting information indicating whether the message is to be displayed in a display screen of the second information processing apparatus. The providing unit provides information that causes the second information processing apparatus to form the display screen such that the message is not displayed if the display setting information received by the reception unit indicates that the

message is not to be displayed and such that the message is displayed if the received display setting information indicates that the message is to be displayed. Claim 55 is a method claim that corresponds to Claim 46.

According to the invention of new Claims 46 and 55 that a display screen setting information is provided to a first information processing apparatus which sets a message to be displayed in the first information processing apparatus and that message information is received by the image processing apparatus from the first information processing system based on the provided display screen setting information and display setting information indicating whether the message is to be displayed on the display screen of a second information processing apparatus. Information is also provided to not cause the second information processing apparatus to form the display screen if the received display setting information indicates that the message is not to be displayed and the message is displayed if the received display setting information so indicates. It is not seen that any combination of the cited references teaches or suggests the features of Claims 46 and 55 relating to the operation of first and second information processing apparatuses. It is therefore believed that new Claims 46 and 55 are allowable.

New Independent Claim 50 is directed to image processing apparatus that can communicate with an information processing apparatus via a communication line. In the image processing apparatus, a reception unit receives message setting for a message to be displayed in a display unit of the image processing apparatus and for a timing when the message is displayed corresponding to the execution of a predetermined process. A memory unit stores an execution setting for execution of a predetermined process in the image processing apparatus. A setting

unit sets such that if the timing setting received by the reception unit is invalid for the execution setting stored in the memory unit, a warning is generated for the invalid timing setting. New Claim 56 is a method claim that corresponds to Claim 50.

It is a feature of new Claims 50 and 56 that a memory unit stores an execution setting for execution of a predetermined process in an image processing apparatus received from an information processing apparatus. A control unit generates a warning for an invalid timing setting if the received timing setting is stored in the memory unit is invalid. It is not seen that any of the cited references suggest the features of Claims 50 and 56. It is therefore believed that new Claim 50 and 56 are completely distinguished from the cited art and is allowable.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney, Daniel S. Glueck, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack S. Cubert", written over a horizontal line.

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